



The Water Connection - September 1995

Working Toward Water Solutions

The City of Tucson Water Department continues to make progress in testing and developing systems for efficiently using our water resources.

Main Replacement Programs

The replacement of Tucson's old and worn water mains continues. So far this year 22 miles of mains have been replaced and 20 miles are planned for 1996.

Groundwater Savings Projects

7,000 acre feet of CAP water are being used this year to water crops at BKW Farms in Marana. The City Water Department would like to extend an existing contract for similar projects with the Marana Irrigation District.

Recharge

Planning is underway with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District to begin construction of the Pima Mine Road Recharge Facility. Between 10,000 and 20,000 acre feet of CAP water will eventually be surface recharged at the facility each year.

Blending

The Department is conducting a study to determine if blending CAP water and groundwater will reduce iron uptake in old water pipes. Results have shown that controlling the pH of the water at 8.2 has a substantial beneficial effect in reducing the "red water" problem.

Making Progress:

Mayor & Council Adopt Consultant's CAP Use Plan

At the "Water Issues" special study session on September 27th the Mayor and Council adopted the final version of the CAP Water Use Plan that was developed during the past

year by consultant Dames and Moore. The CAP Water Use Plan will be implemented immediately based on the following direction:

- The City Manager will appoint a Project Manager to oversee and develop a phased plan with a time-line for the next 5 - 8 years, utilizing field and pilot testing.
- Phase I 1995-97
 1. Recharge CAP water at a limited number of sites that would involve minimal and/or reasonable costs.
 2. Complete blending studies of groundwater and CAP water.
 3. Conduct feasibility studies for membrane treatment and handling of waste concentrate.
 4. Develop a public involvement program.
 5. File for Assured Water Supply status with the Arizona Department of Water Resources.
- Phase II 1997 - (approximately) 2003
 1. Build a pilot membrane plant, if Phase I study looks positive.
 2. Develop alternative options if membrane plant is not feasible.
- Make changes to water Capital Improvement Program and bring forward to Council by early 1996.

Comprehensive planning for the use of Tucson's water resources is the subject of monthly planning sessions being held by the Tucson Mayor and City Council. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th at the Tucson Convention Center meeting rooms.

Enhanced Treatment Conference Draws More Than 40 Firms

The City of Tucson's Pre-Interest Conference meeting for firms interested in designing, building, and operating an enhanced treatment facility for CAP water drew approximately 40 interested parties. A number of local firms, as well as companies from France, Puerto Rico, New York, California, Florida, Colorado, and several other states were in attendance. The City has also received more than 150 requests for additional information. The deadline for submittal of the Request for Interest forms from interested companies is October 20, 1995.

Water Conservation:

Working Together Worked This Summer

Another record setting summer is behind us including the hottest, driest July on record. On July 27th, we saw the highest single-day demand for water in our history - 153.7

million gallons, and the Department pumped more water on August 3rd, 146.5 million gallons, than any other day in its history.

Despite the temperatures and the needs for water, Tucson's citizens responded immediately to an appeal from the Water Department to reduce water use when demand threatened to create a water emergency. The day after Water Director Kent McClain asked customers to reduce their water use, **the demand dropped 10 million gallons, and use remained lower for more than a week**, allowing the Department to refill our reservoirs. The remainder of the summer passed with no water demand problem.

We want to thank our customers for their continued water conservation efforts, both during the summer and throughout the year.

Source: City of Tucson, Water Department
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